

Independent Contractor Exemptions

A Final Report on Senate Bill 270

A THANK YOU FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

At the conclusion of the 59th legislative session I had the privilege of appointing a group of people to a committee convened to study the issue of independent contractor exemptions. The group was charged with reviewing the definition of an independent contractor and making recommendations to the legislature on issues related to independent contractors.

As those who have been involved with this question can attest, this is not a new issue nor is it one specific to Montana. The issue of whether an individual is an employee or an independent contractor poses numerous dilemmas on the federal level as well as for all the states. It is a problem that involves a myriad of enforcement, administrative and judicial issues ranging from workers' compensation coverage to unemployment compensation to income taxes. To the members of the committee I, as well as all the citizens of Montana, commend your efforts and extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to you for all the time and effort you dedicated to making recommendations that will benefit the department, the legislature and the people of Montana.

Wendy Keating, Commissioner
Montana Department of Labor and Industry
December 20, 2004